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T H E

G O V E R N E S S ;

OR, THE

Boarding School Dissected.

A

DRAMATIC ORIGINAL

IN THREE ACTS.

W H E R E I N

Are exposed, in Dramatic Order, the ERRORS in the present Mode of FEMALE EDUCATION, and a Method of correcting them, in order to form the Mind, and improve the Understanding.

Delightful Task! to rear the tender Thought,
To teach the young Idea how to shoot,
To pour the fresh Instruction o'er the Mind,
To breathe th' enliv'ning Spirit, and to fix
The gen'rous Purpose in the glowing Breast.

THOMPSON.

L O N D O N :

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1785.

[Entered at Stationers Hall.]

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Boarding School Children.

2102



BRITANNIA
NICVM

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Mrs. Teachwell, the Governess.

Miss Wisely, her Teacher, a very amiable young Lady, brought up under Mrs. Teachwell.

Mrs. Dullbright.

Mrs. Skillful.

Miss Witty.

Miss Friendly.

Miss Fiére.

Miss Maline.

Miss Fullgold.

Miss Captious.

Miss Depit.

Miss Avidé.

Miss Entêtée.

Miss Simple.

Betty, the Servant.

Ladies of the School,

SCENE, *A Boarding School in the Country.*

E R R A T U M.

Page 34, *for Thelypthora, read Thelyphthora.*

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Mr. Teachwell, the Governor.
Mrs. Wilby, her Father, a very amiable young
Lady, brought up under Mrs. Teachwell.

Mrs. Dalrymple.

Mrs. Skillicorn.

Mrs. Wilby.

Mrs. Friendly.

Mrs. Frier.

Mrs. Maline.

Mrs. Follis.

Mrs. Cyprian.

Mrs. Dwyer.

Mrs. Auld.

Mrs. Blythe.

Mrs. Simple.

Henry, the servant.

Ladies of the School.

SCENE, A Parlor in the Country.

ACT I.

SCENE I. A Parlor in the Country.

T H E
BOARDING SCHOOL, &c.

A
DRAMATIC ORIGINAL.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

A P A R L O U R.

The curtain rises, and discovers the Governess seated at a table, reading the speculation of Mr. Addison upon Education; after a short pause she rises, and advances towards the audience.

Governess.

I N D E E D, Mr. Addison, your similitude of Education in the human soul, to a block of marble in the hands of an artist, displays, at one view, the valuable effects and necessity of Education. Besides; its great utility, the history of the ancients, and the experience of the moderns, fully prove: and the manifold advantages

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tages arising from a good Education, is an inexhaustible subject, and one that has been deeply penetrated into in the last century. Many valuable systems have been laid down, and many meritorious treatises written; and in particular for the better instructing the Female Sex. But they seem almost all in vain. How few do we find of our sex, whose education surpasses a minuet, cotillon, talking a little French, playing a few airs on the harpsicord, and an easy deportment.—Mental knowledge, and fashioning the soul, are esteemed as trivial and unnecessary.——Do but speak of a young lady at school (the reply is) Oh! how well she dances; how she excels in all sorts of needle-work; and I'm sure you would be charmed to see how gracefully she enters a room, and retires. As if forms and ceremonies, needle-work and a genteel carriage, added to gross and barbarous corruption in their own language, as well as in others, incapable to write two lines correct in either, was, as is now called, a finished Education.

Enter Miss Wisely.

Gov. Ah! Miss Wisely, what brings you here!
a note! *[With surprise.]*

Miss Wisely. Yes, Ma'am, I have just received it; it was brought by Diligence the coachman, who desired it to be delivered to you without delay.

Governess opens the note and reads,

Mrs. Allwork's compliments to Mrs. Teachwell, and earnestly begs the ruffles may be finished and sent home with Miss; for she is
going

BOARDING SCHOOL DISSECTED. 3

going on a visit to her uncle in the country during the holidays, for whom the ruffles are intended; hopes Mrs. Teachwell will excuse the little trouble.

Miss Wisely. I thought Mrs. Allwork was fully satisfied with what was done, and begged that Miss might take her time in completing them, as they would contribute greatly to her improvement.

Gov. They were the last words she said in taking leave; and particularly desired that they might not be hurried. I cannot think on any means for the finishing them, the time is so short, and every one in full employ.—What think you, Miss Wisely? for I must refer the business to you.

Miss Wisely. Why, Ma'am, I'll use my utmost endeavours to relieve you of the trouble. Let me consider; there is Miss Nimblestitch, Miss Threadlequick, Miss Witty, and Miss Friendly, who have finished all their requisites for the vacation; I can employ them.

Gov. Well do, my dear, you are very good.

Miss Wisely. And you, Ma'am, are very deserving.

Gov. As the day is too far advanced to be improved by business, and the afternoon being fine, I would wish you to give the ladies a little recreation in the fields.

Miss Wisely. Very well, Ma'am, as you please.

Gov. And pray, my dear, pay strict attention that they walk properly, and hold up their heads; for there is Miss Dowdy, and Miss Downcast, who are very remiss; indeed, they are a disgrace to a

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genteel school. What's the time? 'tis near five o'clock; you'll return to tea.

Miss Wisely. Yes, Ma'am, we'll return about six o'clock.

Gov. Well, my dear, go then; but pray be attentive.

Miss Wisely. You may depend on my utmost care and vigilance. [Exit *Wisely*.

Governesses Solo.

'Tis well said; for in all things that I trust to your care, I find you regular, exact, and diligent: but I should be much surprized if you were not so. You, who I have educated from four years old, have continually inculcated, and exemplified dignity in sentiment, nobleness in action, refinement in manners, and every other necessary qualification to render you amiable. 'Tis true, your uncle has spared no expence for your Education; and I can confidently say, that your Education is not a modern finished one, but such as will gain universal estimation, unadorned with the empty shew of dress, or the attracting addition of a good fortune, so much the idols of the world.

Enter Servant.

Ma'am, there's a vast of people at the door, who says as how, that they have brought the ladies dresses and finery for the ball; and I wants to know where you'll have them put.

Gov. Bid them bring them this way; for I must see 'em properly delivered, because great care must be taken of them.

[Exit *Gov.* People with *ban-boxes* following.
Servant

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Servant Sola.

Oh dear! Oh dear! what a place is this; it appears to me like a new world; here is nothing but chattering out-landish French like magpies; running about like partridges in a corn field; dancing like puppets in a show; and to see them dance, what they call the minevit, where they stretch out their arms, and fiddle along, as if they had a little too much ale in their noddles, at one of our country wakes; but they say 'tis very fine. Howsomdever, I am sure I would not stay here; but they tell me as how, that I shall get a great deal of money at this ball time, and that will buy me a new gown and other fine gear; and then I can go and see my friends in the country, hold up my head, and shew a wond'rous deal of good breeding.

[*Exiens.*

Enter Miss Avide.

Betty, Betty, can't you get me a piece of bread and butter?

Betty. No, Miss; you know how angry your Governess will be if she should happen to know it, and I will not do it.

Avide. Well, then, I'm sure I will not bring you any money when I return to school after the holidays.

[*Exiens.*

Betty. Why, Miss, I'll tell you what; you see I don't like to be ill-natured; but your Governess says, that I must not give you any thing between meals. But if you will be sure not to tell, I am willing to indulge any of the ladies in any thing that I am, I'm sure; and if you can creep slyly into the pantry, I'll come to you in a minute.

Avide.

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Avide. Don't be long, then, for fear of my Governess. [Exit.]

Servant Sola.

Let me see, what am I going to do? have I forgot all my mother's advice?—She told me when I left her, to take care of myself, to be honest, and not to cheat my master or my mistress; no, nor deceive them neither. Aye, and she made me say my duty towards my neighbour three times over, because I should not forget it. Well, but a bit of bread and butter is not robbing or cheating, because 'tis given to one of the family; and they ought to have their bellies full. Besides, you know she promises me — [A motion for putting money in the hand. Exiens.]

Enter Governess.

Betty, is Miss Wisely and the ladies returned?

Betty. No, Ma'am. [Exit.]

Gov. What can be the reason of their delay? I begin to be uneasy: it is past six o'clock, and the ladies should have their tea.—Oh here's Miss Wisely!

Enter Miss Wisely.

My dear, I am glad you are returned! I began to be alarmed at your stay! Why you look depressed?

Miss Wisely. Indeed, Ma'am, I have sufficient reason, and am scarcely recovered from the agitation that I have been thrown in.

Gov.

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Gov. Why what's the matter? no accident I hope! nothing befallen any of the ladies! —
Speak! — [Surprized.]

Miss Wisely. Yes, Ma'am, there is something, and it had like to have been of a very serious nature indeed.

Gov. Wh——at —— wh——at is it, Miss Wisely?

Miss Wisely. While we were in the fields, Ma'am, some of the ladies amusing themselves with selecting particular flowers, some walking tête-à-tête, others diverting themselves by running; my attention was suddenly drawn by the cry of "Help, Help, or Miss Simple will be drown'd." I immediately ran to the place from whence the cries came, where I found Miss Simple prostrate in a ditch, and nearly suffocated. I drew her out covered with mud, and enquired how the accident happened. I was informed that Miss Maline had pushed her in. I reproved her for such a daring offence, but she laughed at the event. Her impertinence, the distress I was in, and the disorder of the other ladies, deprived me of the power of speech; therefore I hastened home with all possible speed, have put her to bed, and have ordered something hot to be immediately prepared. In the interim, am come to acquaint you with our disaster.

Gov. My dear, you should take care, and observe their most minute actions when abroad. Dear, dear, always something disagreeable if I am not present. When did it happen?

Miss Wisely. At the time when I was changing a few compliments with Mrs. Beaumont and her two nieces. Besides, Ma'am, if I had the eyes
of

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of Argus, and the wisdom of Pallas, it would be impossible to foresee, or suggest, all the malignities Miss Maline is capable of. We never go abroad, if she is with us, but we return with torn frocks, scratched faces, sprained ankles, and broken fans. All the other ladies are obedient to my word; but Miss Maline counteracts my will in all things; is a bad example to others; and I'm sure there will be no good order in the school while she remains in it.

Gov. What would you have me do, Miss Wisely?

Miss Wisely. Send her home, and reasons for your conduct!

Gov. Ah! Miss Wisely, you know not why I bear so many inconveniences from Miss Maline. — Miss Maline pays me fifty guineas per annum, and the rest of the ladies thirty only; that I have frequent and valuable presents from her family; besides, it is a very genteel connection; these are cogent reasons why I endure what I do, Miss Wisely.

Miss Wisely. True, Ma'am; but is a family like your's, that might be regulated with the greatest ease, be continually deranged, because the board and education of one lady amounts to fifty guineas a year?

Gov. No, Miss Wisely; but, my dear, if you were to go into other schools, you'd find disagreeable circumstances, equal to those of Miss Maline.

Miss Wisely. Then I am sure I would not stay.

Gov. You know not what you may be obliged to do, Miss Wisely.

Miss

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Miss Wisely. Never to suffer such insolences as I daily receive from Miss Maline, and defended by the Governess.

Gov. Miss Wisely, you forget yourself strangely; do you know to whom you speak?

Miss Wisely. Ma'am, if my warmth, and the recapitulation of insults, has vaded me into disrespect, I am very sorry for it, and sincerely ask your pardon; but ———

Enter a Servant.

Miss Wisely, all the things that you ordered are ready.

Miss Wisely. Very well, Betty, I'll come.

Gov. Aye, my dear, do you go, and I'll follow you in a minute. *[Exit Wisely.]*

Governess Sola.

I am not sorry this accident has happened, as there is no subsequent bad consequences, because it will make you more attentive for the future, knowing the goodness of your heart, and your attachment to my interest. *[Exit.]*

Enter Miss Friendly, and Miss Witty, meeting.

Miss Witty. Ah, my dear Miss Friendly, where are you going so hastily?

Miss Friendly. I am going to console poor Miss Wisely; for I find all the blame of this afternoon's disaster is imputed to her.

Miss Witty. Indeed, my dear, I don't think my Governess treats Miss Wisely kindly; for 'tis unjust to make the innocent suffer for the guilty. So it is, nothing is wrong that Miss Maline,
C Miss

Miss Fiere, Miss Captious, and Miss Depit does ; but Miss Wisely is the true emblem of virtue, the more you oppress her, the more she thrives ; and like a tree, grows more verdant for having its branches lopped.

Miss Friendly. True, Miss Witty ; but the sympathetic delicacies of friendship will not allow us to reason thus when a friend's in distress. Our sufferings and ease, our pains and pleasures, our joys and sorrows, are united so closely by friendship, that when our friends suffer, we suffer with them. How pungently do I feel the wrongs done Miss Wisely !

Miss Witty. And they shall suffer as pungently in return. Well, my dear, I will not detain you from your friendly office, but will accompany you to Miss Wisely's room, ask her how she does, and return again here, and observe who comes ; and if I find an opportunity to revenge Miss Wisely by meeting any of them, I'll make myself as formidable as a severe teacher to a timid child, or a rigid critic to a poor poet.

[*Exit Miss Witty and Friendly.*]

Enter Miss Fullgold, Miss Fiere on one Side ; and Miss Captious, Miss Depit on the other.

Miss Depit. Oh Ladies, well met ! I've got such news to tell !

Miss Captious. Why, what's the matter ?

Miss Fiere. Aye, what's the matter ?

Miss Fullgood. Any rich heiress lost her fortune ?

Miss Depit. No, Miss ; but my Governess, they say, has reproved Miss Wisely so sharply for Miss Simple's accident, that I saw her just now re-
tiring

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tiring to her room, with her eyes swelled in such a manner——Oh 'twas a charming sight !

Miss Captious. And I saw Miss Friendly and Miss Witty just now enter Miss Wisely's room—I suppose to console her !

Miss Fiere. I am glad the humble thing suffers, for I hate her humility.

Miss Fullgood. I dislike her merit with her poverty ; if she was rich, I should esteem her ; but merit has but a feeble lustre, when obscured by poverty.

Enter Miss Maline, hastily saying,

Ladies, Ladies, see here ! ——shews a letter.

Miss Depit. A letter ! Miss Maline, who is it addressed to ?

Miss Maline. To Miss Wisely ! ——

Miss Depit. How came you by it ?

Miss Maline. Why young Mr. Lenitive the Apothecary gave it me just now over the garden wall, and desired me to deliver it immediately to Miss Wisely.

Miss Depit. Oh let us open it, and see the contents !

Miss Fiere. Ah let us open it, for I dare say 'tis a love letter ; and I have a great desire to see a love letter.

Miss Captious. Aye, let us see what's in it !

Miss Maline. (Looking at Miss Fullgood) Shall I break it open ?

Miss Fullgood. With all my heart ; I have no objection.

Miss Depit. Aye, aye ; open it, open it.

Miss Maline. Well then —— breaks open the letter and reads,

Dear Miss Wisely,

Pardon the liberty, that one inspired with a fond passion for you, has assumed. After many severe conflicts, love at last has emboldened me to declare to you, that your merit, improved by your numerous good qualities, have reduced me to the pleasing necessity to confess, with all sincerity, that

I am your most devoted,
and constant admirer,

TIMOTHY LENITIVE.

Miss Fiere. Very well, very well, young Mr. Lenitive!—I thought he was very assiduous in his attendance when Miss Wisely was ill. Miss Maline, I hope you'll transmit this to my Governess.

Miss Maline. Certainly I shall, and with commentations annexed.

Miss Fullgold. Upon my word, this is pleasing indeed.

Miss Captious. Pleasing, why 'tis rapturous!

Miss Maline. Oh this to me is delightful!

Miss Depit. It affords me more pleasure than the most interesting scenes of Pamela, Clarissa Harlowe, Tom Jones, Peregrine Pickle, Sir Charles Grandison—or the unguarded Moment.

Miss Fiere. Aye, and more pleasure to me than opening my Lord Mayor's ball, or being the best dressed, and most noticed at Lady Racket's rout.

Miss Depit. I am sure, nothing has happened a long time that has given me so much pleasure, not even the ascension of Lunardi's Balloon.
(Turning

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(Turning her head, she observes Miss Witty, who enters listening.—Oh here's Miss Witty!) [*Hush.*

Miss Witty. What has given you so much pleasure, Miss Depit?

Miss Depit. Nothing!

[*Looks angry.*

Miss Witty. I believe you; for 'tis the effects of little geniuses to be pleased with nothing.

Miss Fullgold. Come, Miss Fiere, let us go, for I see a storm arising in Miss Witty, which will wreck all our understanding, and drive us on the shore of perplexity.

Miss Fiere. Yes, we'll leave the babbler!—

[*Haughtily. Exeunt.*

Miss Depit. I wish, Miss Witty, you would not interrupt us, but let us enjoy our thoughts alone.

Miss Witty. I should be much obliged to you, if you would assist me with your thoughts.

Miss Depit. For what reason?

Miss Witty. I'll tell you; I intend writing to my papa on the origin and progress of folly, and I cannot apply to any body better than you for information, knowing you to be compleat mistress of the subject.

Miss Depit. Upon my word, Miss.

Miss Witty. No; 'tis upon my word, for I speak the truth.

Miss Captious. Why you impertinent, have we no sense then.

Miss Witty. Oh yes; sense to eat, sense to drink, sense to hear, sense to see, sense to taste, and sense to smell; but like the brutes only, senses ye have—but rationality, none.

Miss Depit. Indeed, Miss, you make us pretty things truly.

Miss

Miss Witty. So ye are pretty things, mere Automations, and fit only to be carried about from Fair to Fair, to be exposed as puppets in a shew; for ye are beings without understanding, without refinement, without friendship, without reason, without candour, and without charity.

Miss Captious. You insulting creature; then have we nothing to recommend us?

Miss Witty. Oh yes; ye have industry with the bee, but your production is gall; diligence with the ant, but nobody is a grain the better for it; constancy with the dove, but 'tis always in the execution of base acts; and if ye had capacity adequate to your inclination, you'd be like that monster of antiquity Queen Mary.

Miss Depit. This is abominable.

Miss Witty. I would wish to be as abominable to you as a despotic king to an impotent oppressed people; or a true patriot, to minions, sycophants, and speculators.

Miss Depit. I'll tell you what, Miss Witty, you are offensive, good for nothing, poor and mean.

Miss Witty. I confess that my apparel is not so costly and extravagant as either of you ladies; but when ye are equipped in your richest dresses, and ornamented in your best manner, you are then only fit for scare-crows on a cherry-tree, or stage dancers in Bartholomew Fair.

Miss Captious. You are so very troublesome, Miss Witty, that we don't want your conversation, nor to be the subjects of your wit.

Miss Mitty. Why then, I'll talk with you a *votre Façon*. Let me think! How many sprigs did you do this morning?—What, won't that do neither?—What did ye come here for?—

Oh

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Oh now I have it. 'Twas to practice the last part of the Devonshire Minuet and Gavotte, or else to count how many hours to the vacation.

Miss Captious. We were not thinking about vacation, Miss.

Miss Witty. True, true; ye have always enough of that. [*Points to her forehead.*]

Miss Depit. What insolence!

Miss Witty. I always treat my company with due respect.

Miss Captious. 'Tis unfufferable; we'll bear this no longer; we will have satisfaction.

Miss Witty. Do you really require satisfaction:

Miss Captious. Yes, Miss, we do; and we'll have it.

Miss Witty. Why then put your cap upon my head, and punish me by wearing the fool's cap.

Miss Captious. We'll stay no longer, but go immediately to my Governess, and tell her how you insult us.

Miss Witty. Nay, Nay, let me go with you as your remembrancer, for I'm sure you'll forget half of what you have to say before you get to the parlour. [*Exeunt Captious and Depit.*]

Enter Miss Wisely and Miss Friendly.

[*Witty, Sola, laughing, ab—ab—ab!*]

Miss Wisely. What makes you so merry, Miss Witty?

[*Miss Witty continues laughing.*]

Miss Witty. You would be merry too, if you had seen in what manner Miss Depit and Miss Captious have just now left me; exactly as clients leave my papa, when he has got their money, and they have lost their causes.

Miss

Miss Friendly. What's the matter, Miss Witty?

Miss Witty. Why, I have been practising a little on Miss Captious and Miss Depit; have raised their choler to such a height, that they are gone to complain to my Governess of innumerable wrongs.

Miss Wisely. Take care, Miss Witty, for I assure you they are favourites with my Governess.

Miss Witty. I fear neither their power or influence, and can assimilate them with propriety to a gun loaded with powder only; they make a report, but cannot do mischief.

Miss Friendly. Bravo, Miss Wisely, attack them whenever you find an occasion; for while they insult our friend they insult us, and 'tis just we should resent and revenge it; for they who will not defend an insulted friend, do not deserve to experience the joys and blessings of friendship.

Miss Wisely. Ladies, I am very much obliged to you; but should be very sorry if you should expose yourselves to the anger of my Governess on my account.

Miss Witty. Soyez contente la dessus; if my wit don't invalidate all their accusations, I'll renounce all pretensions to it; and if I am punished for their complaints, I shall account it the greatest disgrace of my life, and think my Governess qualified for the first vacancy in new St. Luke's.

Miss Wisely. Speak with respect of your Governess, Miss Witty, I beseech you. If sometimes she may act in a manner reprehensible by us, perhaps her years and experience dictate to her, what our youth cannot foresee; as a proof,

we

we find innumerable examples in divine and profane history.

Miss Friendly. Indeed, my dear Miss Witty, my Governess is very partial to Miss Captious, Miss Fullgold, Miss Maline, Miss Depit, and Miss Fiere.

Miss Wisely. Yes, my dear, and that they are all in confederacy, particularly against me, because, by my complaints, they are punished for neglect of duty.

Miss Witty. Aye, but I know my Governess is more partial to wit and learning; and as for their confederacy, what will that avail them; 'tis like an army without a commander, a goose without gravy, or a Frenchman without his snuff-box; mere insipid.--Besides, what can withstand wit, wisdom, and friendship? why they are the support of empires, kingdoms, and states.

Miss Wisely. True, Miss Witty; but history furnishes us with many instances where virtue and merit, added to wit, wisdom, and friendship, have been obliged to yield to the clamour and confederacy of the numerous ignorant. Witness Socrates, Demosthenes, Aristides, and others.

Miss Friendly. Perhaps our enemies are more numerous than you imagine! I am informed there are Miss Artful, Miss Trifle, Miss Avide, Miss Sly, and several others.

Miss Witty. Ah! Ah! Ah! As for Miss Artful there is nought to fear; she is artful 'tis true, but only for herself, not for society; you have not forgot how artfully she accused Miss Thoughtless of breaking my Governess's table, when she herself was only guilty.

Miss Friendly. Well but Miss Trifle!

D

Miss

Miss Witty. Oh, all her wisdom, esteem, and friendship, are centered in trinkets, baubles, and gewgaws; she approves a cuff for the arm, a flower for the head, or a flounce for an apron, more than the most delicate refinement, or the most sacred friendship.

Miss Friendly. What say you of Miss Avidé?

Miss Witty. Oh Miss Avidé would do very well for the president of a banquetting coterie; her greediness exposes her always to contempt. Nay, 'tis but t'other day she published the secrets of her friend for a cherry-cheek'd apple; and as for Miss Sly, you have not forgot the thimble, the lace, and the silk, in all which circumstances she resembles Dutch politics, gain 10 and 20 per Cent. by illegal traffic, and lose it all, principal and interest, by the capture of the vessel and cargo.

Miss Wisely. Ladies, I am greatly obliged to you for your kind assistance and friendship; but as I am rather inclined to peace, let us go to my room, for I have half an hour to spare; and there we will attempt to adopt some plan, in order to frustrate all their malignities, odiums, invectives, and malevolences.

Miss Friendly. Indeed, Miss Wisely, I approve the motion, and will gladly accompany you; for I like to encourage love and friendship.

Miss Witty. Ladies, I accede to your superior judgment, and will willingly acquiesce.

*With Hearts and Hands then let us go,
The Tria Juncta in Uno.*

Enter

BOARDING SCHOOL DISSECTED. 19

Enter Miss Captious, speaking to Miss Fullgold.

Miss Captious. It does not signify talking, Miss Fullgold; after all that can be said, and all reasons given to the contrary, I declare that ——— Oh here is Miss Depit, Miss Fiere, and Miss Maline; we'll ask their opinions of the matter.

Miss Maline. What is the subject in dispute?

Miss Captious. Why, whether or no 'tis necessary for the big ladies in a school, to keep the little ones in subjection?

All. To be sure, most certainly!

Miss Depit. Why if that was not the case, we should be of no more consequence in the school, than the fine images on a twelfth cake. Our little faults would be liable to be punished, which now pass with impunity.

Miss Maline. Aye, and if we were not to insult the teachers, and tease the Governess too sometimes, we should lose a part of our consequence.

Miss Fiere. I confess 'tis necessary to support our dignity! *[Haughtily.]*

Miss Maline. Lord, bless me! where I was at school before, we carried every thing before us like a torrent. Why we were dreaded by governess and teachers like a Tertian ague.

Miss Fullgold. But 'tis not so here.——I wish it was!

Miss Captious. It might be so, if we were always in concord, as Miss Wisely, Miss Witty, and Miss Friendly are; but we'll endeavour to become so.

Miss Fullgold. I fear our endeavours will be vain! *[Bell rings.]*

Miss Captious. There's the dinner bell rings.

Miss Maline. Let it ring again; don't let us go yet.

Miss Fiere. You may stay if you please; I shall go to dinner.

Miss Fullgold. There's neither profit nor pleasure in losing our dinner, so let us go. [*Exeunt.*]

Miss Entet  and Miss Wisely meeting.

Miss Wisely. My dear Miss Entet , where are you going?

Miss Entet . To dinner, for the bell has rung!

Miss Wisely. Well, my dear, it will take a few minutes to assemble all the ladies, and as I have not had an opportunity of speaking to you since you have been at school, pray tell me how you like it?

Miss Entet . Not at all!

Miss Wisely. Why so?

Miss Entet . Because you won't let me do as I like!

Miss Wisely. Why, my dear, it is not fit it should be so; you are very young, and not capable of judging yet what is good for your present or future advantage; besides, you are sent here to learn what is right.

Miss Entet . Why I used to do as I pleased at home; and if I wanted any thing I always had it.

Miss Wisely. Oh that is very strange!—And pray tell me what methods you employed to procure all your wishes?

Miss Entet . You'll acquaint my Governess if I tell you!

Miss Wisely. I assure you no harm shall come to you for your confession.

Miss

BOARDING SCHOOL DISSECTED. 21

Miss Entet . Why then I'll tell you.—Suppose I wanted to go abroad with any young lady of my acquaintance, or to pay a visit, and I asked my mamma permission, and was refused; I immediately began to cry violently; and my mamma, because she was fearful of my going into fits, would grant me my request.

Miss Wisely. My dear, you astonish me; I can scarcely believe what you say!

Miss Entet . Or if by chance we had company, and I wished to sit up, as soon as I was desired to retire to bed, I began to pout and hang down my head; and upon being much interrogated for the cause of so doing, and if any thing was the matter with me, I then grew sullen, and would not speak, till my papa, who was very fond of me, and some of the company, would interfere in my behalf; and so a few sobs and sighs added, I always carried my point.

Miss Wisely. You have a great deal of art and cunning; but Education you have none!

Miss Entet . How should I! I never continued long enough at school for to gain much learning.

Miss Wisely. How so?

Miss Entet . Why if I did not like school, or if any thing displeased me, I went home, told my parents, and falsehoods too sometimes; they always believed me; and without enquiring whether or no things were as I represented them, would not suffer me to go again. Why I dare say I have been at above twenty schools!

[*Bell rings again.*]

Miss Wisely. There's the bell rings again; do you go my dear, and I will follow you in a minute.

[*Exit Miss Entet .*]

Miss

Miss Wisely Sola.

Am I awake, or do I dream! Good God! is it possible that parents can hold such a conduct towards their children?—Oh! I do not wonder that children are so untoward in their dispositions, nor that boarding schools should be stigmatized. —What pity it is, that those great evils, imputed to boarding schools, are not traced to their original source, so that the invectives and opprobriums may fall with justice on the parent, which too often falls upon the governesses. Oh parents! 'tis by you, and not by teachers, that the soul is often corrupted. We can help the parent to fashion the soul; but if the mind comes vitiated, or fraught with bad qualities, imbibed by a bad maternal education, 'tis almost impossible for a teacher ever to dislodge them; and by attempting to repel them, very often only augment their number, and heighten their progression. [Exit.

Enter Betty, saying to Mrs. Dullbright, be pleased to walk in this parlour, Ma'am, and I'll go and renounce you to my mistress immediately.

Dullbright. Renounce me to her mistress! I don't know what she means! I wonder if this is learning! [Aside.

Betty. Lard, Lard, she seems confused; why she don't understand me.—Surely I am grown vastly wise! [Aside. Oh there is the bell. [Exit.
[Bell rings.

Dull. I am glad the bell rung, or else I certainly should have exposed myself; for I never was asked such a question in all my born days.
Renounce

BOARDING SCHOOL DISSECTED. 23

Renounce me! I can't think what it means. I remember in the catechism there is to renounce the Devil and all his works.—Bless me! I am very warm (rises to look in the glass.) Dear, dear, I am as red as scarlet! Deuce take the girl, and her out of the way sayings! I am quite a fright! However, I'll try to compose myself a little before Mrs. Teachwell comes. (Fans, and wipes herself with her handkerchief, and looks about the room.) This is an elegant room enough! and very elegantly furnished. Ah! what's that Bib—Bib——Oh let me spell it!——Bib-li-o-the-que, Bibliotheque? why I suppose by the books that 'tis a library. Oh there's something else! La-Science seule, fait le vrai Bonheur. Aye, I'm sure I don't understand nothing on it. To be sure, learning is a very fine thing; and I don't know how it is, my father gave me a good fortune, but I had not much learning. I suppose it was not the fashion to give children much learning; for I know every thing is done by fashion. However, I'll correct the fault, for my daughter shall have good learning, if she has nothing else.

Enter Mrs. Teachwell.

Gov. Your humble servant Mrs. Dullbright.

Dull. Mrs. Teachwell, Ma'am, I hope I see you well!

Gov. I beg you'll be seated, Ma'am! [*Both sit.*]

Dull. I have brought my daughter another cap, Mrs. Teachwell, that her aunt has made her a present of for the ball.

Gov. Very well, Ma'am! I'll ring for Miss.

Dull.

Dull. No, no, Ma'am; you know I shall have her at home very soon for the holidays. I'll just ask her how she does as I go out!—Well, Mrs. Teachwell, what do you think of the cap?

Gov. Indeed, Ma'am, I think 'tis very pretty! (How I falsify my judgment.) [*Aside.*]

Dull. They say 'tis elegant; for you see what a quantity of ribbons and flowers there is.

Gov. Yes, Ma'am, I see there is a great quantity of ribbons and flowers! (A sure proof of a vulgar taste.)

Dull. And here, Ma'am, is a pair of shoes; they say that they are very neat and genteel; but I can't say that I like them so well as the cap, for they are not showy enough; they were made her a present of by my husband's sister, and she is governess to Lady Lovelearn's children, and they say she has a great deal of taste.

Gov. I wish she had made the cap then! [*Aside.*]

Dull. Pray, Mrs. Teachwell, is it convenient for me now to have the tickets for the ball?

Gov. Yes, Ma'am, if you please.

Dull. Then let me have a couple; one for myself, for I promise myself the pleasure of coming; besides, I should be glad to see Sally perform her part in the play; and the other for a friend of mine, who is very fond of plays, balls, and assemblies.

Gov. There are two tickets, Ma'am.

Dull. How much are the tickets?

Gov. Ten shillings!

Dull. There is half a guinea, Mrs. Teachwell.

Gov. I must return you sixpence, Ma'am.

Dull. Oh never mind the sixpence, Ma'am.

Gov.

Gov. You are very obliging, Ma'am, and I don't know how I shall requite your kindness!

Mrs. Dull. Oh, Ma'am, I pray don't mention it, Mrs. Teachwell. I hope, Ma'am, my little girl is very good.

Gov. Indeed, Ma'am, I have no reason to complain, and I assure you she improves very much in French.

Mrs. Dull. Yes, Ma'am, so her papa says that she had reprov'd very much, and that she knows all the paths of speech, and injunctions, and the sing-tax. My husband's a judge, Ma'am, for he knows about Jupiter, Barometers, Balloons, and the great Bear. Why, Ma'am, 'tis but t'other day that he told something in a Welch will that a bishop could not.

Gov. Learning is a very valuable attainment.

Mrs. Dull. Yes, Ma'am, so it is, and my husband is a very clever man I assure you. Why, Ma'am, he has got two monstrous large globes, that shews all the world and the stars; and he has got besides a monstrous little thing called a microscope, which when you look through it, it makes things monstrous big; and indeed to a person who never saw any such thing, it would frighten them monstrously.

Gov. Good God! how shall I extricate myself from this parenthesis of nonsense! [*Aside.*]

Mrs. Dull. But there is one fault that I thought I would speak to you about, and that is, that when I desire Sally to do some little thing to help the maid when we are in a hurry, she seems to do it, I don't know how, with so much dislike; and even once told me when I was angry with her

E

about

about it, that it would be time enough for her to do such things when she could not do better; that her education was superior to any menial office. I hope, Ma'am, learning don't teach children to be proud and disobedient to their parents!

Gov. Quite the contrary; but I will speak to Miss about it!

Mrs. Dull. I will be very much obliged to you, Ma'am, because she will mind what her Governess says.

Enter Betty,

Ma'am, the stage is at the door.

Mrs. Dull. Oh very well; I'm a coming. *Mrs. Teachwell,* your servant, Ma'am; I shall see you again at the ball.

Gov. Your servant, Ma'am; pray give my compliments to Mr. Dullbright.

Governess Sol.

Alas! alas! what a mistaken idea the ignorant have of Education; and it too often originates from this cause. Children who have finished their education under the skilful and judicious, and return to their parents, whose education has not exceeded that of a charity-school, expect their children to submit to all the low groveling of servile employment, and to associate like themselves with their servants; from whence arise innumerable evils. And I fear 'tis too true, that the greatest part of our ruined sex, become so from the vicious company of young female servants. Parents should teach their children to shun the kitchen,

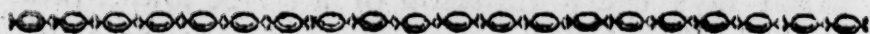
kitchen, where they hear and see that, which too often lays the foundation of all vice and immorality. Servile offices and employments to a child of sensibility and refinement, are terrible indeed; and because sometimes in a becoming manner children refuse, they are accounted proud, despisers of their parents, and disobedient. When, on the contrary, these children, if observed with the eye of reason and justice, will be found to be humble in their manners, lovers of their parents, obedient in all reasonable things, and behave with a becoming respect to all mankind.——Others, whose finished education consists in dancing gracefully, and ornamenting their persons to advantage, what is called, in Female Education, Taste. A young lady thus qualified, fond of shewing herself in her excelling qualities, will condescend to any thing, however low and mean, to satisfy that desire for balls and company; and 'tis no uncommon thing, to see a young lady dance gracefully at a ball in the evening, and the next morning performing the menial offices of the family. 'Tis by these means that so many, what are called well bred young ladies, brought up at boarding school for several years, fall into all vulgar habits and opinions, and very often terminate in their future ruin: they become the favourites of coxcombs and an easy prey to the artful and designing. And then it is that Education is calumniated, and Boarding Schools condemned.

*Dancing and Dress may aid the Body's Form ;
But solid Learning does the Soul adorn.*

END OF THE FIRST ACT.

E 2

A C T



A C T II.

Curtain rises, and discovers two Ladies at work at a Table.

First Lady.

MY dear, what think you of that stitch? for my Governess said that the other was not well done.

2d Lady. Oh, my dear, 'tis very pretty; and you do it very delicately.

1st Lady. Do you imagine that I shall have finished my apron by the holidays?

2d Lady. Yes, my dear, if you are assiduous. — But what is your apron, compared to my embroidery? I believe I shall never finish it, it has been so long in hand.

1st Lady. Oh dear! I am tired of work.

2d Lady. And I too; let us put our work away.

1st Lady. With all my heart. But how shall we employ our time?

2d Lady. Let us practice the Minuet de la Cour and Allemande, that we are to perform at the ball.

1st Lady. A good thought, for we are not likely to be interrupted; so let us move away the table and chairs.

After the table and chairs are moved,

1st Lady. Let us mind that part where we give our hands.

2d Lady.

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2d Lady. And do you mind not to pull me so violently in the Allemande.

Here they dance the Minuet de la Cour, &c.

1st Lady. Well, my dear, how do you think we did it?

2d Lady. I wish we may do it as well at the ball; but there are so many spectators that it foils my confidence, and causes me to make mistakes.

1st Lady. But you know, my dear, Mr. Pasgrave the dancing master tells us, never to be intimidated; and that unless we are inspired with our own performances, 'tis impossible to inspire the spectators.

2d Lady. All this I know very well; but it calls to my mind the fable of the fawn and the stag. — Oh my dear, let us retire, for I see my Governess and Miss Wisely coming. [Exeunt.

Enter Governess and Miss Wisely.

Gov. Indeed, Miss Wisely, I know not the reason, but there is another apron cut.

Miss Wisely. Another apron cut, Ma'am!

[With surprise.

Gov. Yes, Miss Slow-works. — 'Tis very surprising, Miss Wisely, how these mischiefs can happen; it did not us'd to be so. — Scarcely a week passes but some accident or other happens, and always to the works of those ladies that you preside over. — Dear, dear; I fear you are not so attentive as you should be, Miss Wisely.

Miss Wisely. Such words, Ma'am, affect me more, than the value of a thousand aprons, and render me completely wretched. To doubt my care and
attention,

attention, is divesting me of all those principles of integrity and candour, that I have imbibed from your instruction.—'Tis at once ranking me with the sordid mean self-server, and an indelible insult to my character.—This is too much. [Weeps.]

Gov. My dear Miss Wisely, if the perplexing circumstance has carried me too far, excuse me, my dear. Governesses have a great many things to discompose them.

Miss Wisely. And teachers too, Ma'am, I assure you, when such accidents are imputed to their neglect.

Gov. Well, my dear Miss Wisely, forget what has been said, and employ every means to discover the delinquent.—I will offer a reward, and do you engage Miss Witty and Miss Friendly to aid the discovery.

Miss Wisely. Ma'am, you may be sure that I'll use every method that I can suggest to make a discovery, for my own justification.

Gov. Well, my dear, no more can be said about it at present; so I'll go and finish the shade of Miss Workwell's embroidery. [Exit Gov.]

Miss Wisely Solo.

I should be very sorry to judge amiss; but I really think that these malpractices issue from Miss Maline, Miss Fiere, and that party.—But time will, I doubt not, discover such baseness, and bring that vengeance intended for me, on the mean perpetrators. [Exit.]

Enter

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Enter Ladies learning their tasks, one to herself, and one aloud, saying, J'ai, I have; tu as, thou hast; il a he has, &c.

1st Lady. Dear Miss, 'tis impossible to learn, if you make so much noise with your J'ai, I have; tu, as thou hast.

2d Lady. I must learn my task as well as you, Miss; besides, I have no inclination to be punished, I assure you.

1st Lady. Well, but you may learn it a little lower, and not interrupt another.

2d Lady. I shall learn it, Miss, as — Oh, here comes Miss Wisely; I'll go. [Exit.

Enter Miss Wisely.

1st Lady. Miss Wisely, pray how do you pronounce this word.

Miss Wisely. Eclaircissement. 'Tis a very good word that we have adopted from the French — It signifies, Illustration. This word, as well as many others that we have taken from the French, shews the great necessity of knowing that language, in order to have a competent knowledge of our own. — I think, according to Dr. Johnson, we have four thousand French words in our language, and they so much in use, that it is impossible even to read the public newspapers without understanding French, as there is scarcely a paragraph without some words of French in it.

1st Lady. Then you account the French language useful, as well as agreeable, Miss Wisely.

Miss Wisely. Most certainly. — For example; if you travel in Spain, Portugal, Russia, or Turkey, and know French, you can always be understood, although

although you know not their respective languages; because all genteel people in those countries, as in England, learn French, it being the universal language.

1st Lady. I always thought the English language excelled that of the French.

Miss Wisely. So it does in its copiousness, nervousness, and force of expression. But for familiar dialogue, the French claims the superiority, their sounds in general not being so harsh as those in our language.

1st Lady. I thank you, Miss Wisely, for this little dissertation on languages, and I'll endeavour to improve it by application. [Exit.

Enter Miss Fullgold.

I am obliged to you, Miss Wisely; perhaps it will be in my power, some time or other, to requite all your kindnesses. I lost my tea this afternoon.

Miss Wisely. Do not blame me, Miss Fullgold; 'tis you who are culpable. Have I not excused you three days successively, till I saw you trifled with my indulgence, and then my duty roused me.

Miss Fullgold. Then you make a duty of punishment, and I imagine take a pleasure in the execution.

Miss Wisely. No, Miss; but you are sent here to learn, not to waste your time in insignificant discourse, and childish amusements.

Miss Fullgold. As for that, Miss Wisely, I shall not consult you how I am to spend my time.

Miss Wisely. Then do not blame me if punishment is annexed to neglect. And I beg, Miss Fullgold,

Fullgold, you'll be more civil and obliging, for they are qualities of a lady.

Miss Fullgold. Yes, Miss Wisely, I will be civil and obliging to those who are my equals in birth and fortune. I'll be civil and obliging to Miss Diamond, Miss Maline, Miss Fiere, and such others; but not to tradesmen's daughters.

Miss Wisely. If you call this nobility, Miss Fullgold, let me tell you, you deceive yourself very much, for virtue is the only nobility. By that word is meant, not only all the cardinal virtues, but love, friendship, humility, and politeness.

Miss Fullgold. Ah! Ah! Ah! Miss Wisely; you may harangue about your cardinal virtues, your humility and politeness, as long as you please. But I assure you, Miss Fullgold will never be brought to believe, that all your learning, sense, and judgment, will ever counterbalance two thousand pounds a year, and a title at the death of my mother.——With such fortune, I shall not follow the dictates of a teacher in a boarding school. Bless me, why did my papa place me among such poor beings!

Miss Wisely. Then you imagine every thing can be attained with two thousand a year.

Miss Fullgold. Most certainly.——Dress, equipage, country and town house, servants, and all other requisites.

Miss Wisely. Perhaps Miss Fullgold may be satisfied with the pomp and parade of the Beau Monde, and I believe suitable only to one of Miss Fullgold's notions. —— But do you not think, Miss Fullgold, that a good Education is a very necessary part of a lady?

F

Miss

Miss Fullgold. To be sure; and I have a good education.——I can play upon the harpsichord, dance, sing, talk French.——What would you have more?

Miss Wisely. You speak of dancing and music, as the most valuable branches of education.

Miss Fullgold. Most certainly! They are Heathens only, who know not how to dance, sing, and play upon the harpsichord, and would be ousted out of all genteel company; would be as despised as Thelyphthora by the ladies, or Seneca by a libertine.

Miss Wisely. I cannot, indeed, appreciate dancing and music as Miss Fullgold does, and look upon them, when compared to the nobler parts of education, as a gilt frame to a masterly painted picture, which may heighten it in the estimation of the ignorant beholder, but is no value to the merits of the piece.

Miss Fullgold. Bless me, Miss Wisely, how you talk!——Why there is the Dutchess of Devonshire, who invents and regulates every thing of fashion and elegance in dress, and many more of the nobility, who can dance, sing, and play upon the harpsichord beyond description, and are so much admired. They don't plague themselves with your sort of learning.

Miss Wisely. You mistake, Miss Fullgold; for I am well informed the Dutchess you have just mentioned, is a lady whose education equals her exalted station in life, and she is neither vain of riches, nor proud of her personal accomplishments, but uses these superficial parts of learning only for relaxation and amusement.

Miss

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Miss Fullgold. It does not signify, *Miss Wisely*; I am still prepossessed in favor of dancing, music, and the polite accomplishments.

Miss Wisely. Then you account intellectual knowledge, refinement, sentiment, judgment, wit and manners, unnecessary in your system of education.

Miss Fullgold. What has a person of two thousand a year, to do with wit and judgment? — They can have them for pay. — Why there are many poor wits who will exhaust themselves for a good dinner in a great family; and as for manners, people of rank and fortune may assume what manners they please.

Miss Wisely. Then you dislike learning.

Miss Fullgold. Even as I dislike you, who are always teasing and tormenting me with your learning, your grammar, and your nonsense. I'll have nothing to do with it, and renounce all pretensions to it.

Miss Wisely. How can that be, when I declare you are a summary of grammar, and contain all the parts of speech.

Miss Fullgold. How! I contain all the parts of speech, and scarcely know the names of them — Explain yourself.

Miss Wisely. Why then you are an article, as being of trifling consequence.

A noun, as being a large substance of matter.

An adjective, as having only the shadow of real understanding.

A pronoun, because in company you supply the place of absent merit.

A verb, as being active in all things ridiculous.

36 THE GOVERNESS; OR, THE

A participle, as partaking both of folly and inanity.

An adverb, for you are here, there, and every where.

A preposition, as always placing yourself before real worth.

A conjunction, because you connect others in disputes by your insolence and impertinence.

And an interjection, because your appearance excites both pity and shame.

Miss Fullgold. Abominable creature.—If I were queen, I'd have you banished.

Miss Wisely. What queen, Miss? for you want every qualification to sway the regal scepter. If you were possessed of our Queen's great abilities, you would be amiable, indeed. For she is great, without pride—wise, without conceit—powerful, without oppression—humble, without servility—witty, without offence—prudent, without meanness, and charitable without vain-glory—an ornament to her sex—an example to her subjects—and beloved and esteemed by all the world.

Miss Fullgold. My fortune will make me esteemed and admired.

Miss Wisely. Courted and fawned upon, flattered and deceived, duped and despised. It may be said of you, as of the Jews of old, they worship only the golden image.—Let me tell you, Miss Fullgold, that fortune and title, without education and judgment, are like Jack the Giant Killer, and Tom Hickerthrift, in a superb gold binding, which are no sooner opened than they expose themselves to general contempt, and shew how unworthy they are of such ornaments.

Miss

Miss Fullgold. All this is very pretty indeed, Miss Wisely; but after all that has been said, I cannot see those great advantages arising from your sort of education, nor the great difference that you say it causes.

Miss Wisely. I'll tell you, then, the great difference between internal and external learning. — That the one will make us the delight and favourite of the wise; and the other the envy and hatred of the illiterate.

Miss Fullgold. It was not so at my former schools. There dancing, dressing to advantage, playing at cards, and haughty airs, were looked upon as the Haut Ton of education. But here is nothing but books and grammar rules till one is stupid, and dispossessed of one's five natural senses.

Miss Wisely. It does not render Miss Witty and Miss Learnwell stupid; they wish to improve themselves, and at the same time to please their teachers. — Oh, Miss Fullgold, what two valuable qualities in a young lady!

Miss Fullgold. Yes, yes, I know you'll applaud Miss Witty and Miss Learnwell, because they are in the list of book-worms; they have caught the infection. — But they are poor, and have nothing else to recommend them.

Miss Wisely. Learning is an inestimable and commendable qualification, Miss Fullgold.

Miss Fullgold. Is it an inestimable and commendable qualification to be poor; for almost all the poets and wits are so. — There's Mr. Pedagogue, our French and writing-master, he is one of your geniuses; he has wrote a play; set the whole country in an uproar about its merit; but
I find,

I find, for the most part, 'tis but an insipid piece.

Miss Wisely. Perhaps those who censure it may not be competent judges of the piece or subject.

Miss Fullgold. Well, I do not like him with all his knowledge; and I imagine by his close application to study, he'll be found in the street with a dog, beseeching the commiseration of the charitable and benevolent, or else petitioning for a vacancy in Emanuel Hospital; while I shall be rolling in my phaeton, attended with a train of servants.

Miss Wisely. And in that situation you would not relieve him?

Miss Fullgold. Yes, Miss Wisely, most assuredly I should; although Mr. Pedagogue treats me rather harshly sometimes.

Miss Wisely. I'm well pleased to hear that.—For pity, with a desire to relieve, is one of the noblest qualities of the human soul. (*Aside.*) I confess Mr. Pedagogue is a little severe, and I have heard my Governess make the same remark.—But he will be obeyed.

Miss Fullgold. What a difference!—At the other school, it was usual for the ladies to make a butt of the French master.—We used to pull off his wig—pin a paper, with some impertinence written thereon to his back—and a thousand other tricks. But here, all tremble at the name of Mr. Pedagogue.

Miss Wisely. Except in the exercise of instruction, he is very moderate, and is very kind to those that learn well; for he always rewards them. But to the negligent and inattentive, he is a little severe.—Indeed, Miss Fullgold, I do not wonder

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wonder that you like not learning, since you have spent so much time at school, and have accumulated so small a portion of it.—Nay, it is necessary to unlearn the greatest part of what you have learned, before you can begin to learn what is needful for a young lady of Miss Fullgold's fortune and connections. Indeed, I think that every species of injustice and dishonesty may be atoned for and retaliated; but a breach of trust in education is truly unpardonable, because 'tis unattonable. Money, estates, and all kinds of property may be retaliated; but they who neglect my education, may be justly said to deprive me of my soul.

Shakespeare tells us, that a good name is the most precious thing to be robbed of. But I oppose education to good name; because, when good name is lost, education will support with fortitude under the calamity and distress, and will teach us to bear it with patience and resolution.

Miss Fullgold. Indeed, Miss Wisely, your reasoning is

Enter Betty.

Miss Wisely, my mistress would be glad to speak to you immediately.

Miss Wisely. I am coming, Betty. Adieu, Miss Fullgold.

Miss Fullgold Sola.

I begin to like Miss Wisely. I think the reasons well; and should have been very glad to have finished the discourse with her. However, I'll see her again the first opportunity. [Exit.

Enter

Enter Miss Witty, meeting Miss Avide.

Miss Witty. Ah, Miss Avide, how do you do?—Did you make a good dinner to day?—Hey day, what's the matter?

[Miss Avide don't speak, but looks contemptuously.]

Miss Witty. Why vous vous retrouffez le Nez, like the dog's ears of a child's book, and look as black as the last learned page.

Miss Avide. I wish I was a match for you.

Miss Witty. You are an over-match for me when we are at table; and if you were to swallow learning as your food, I think Solomon's wisdom would be eclipsed.

Miss Avide. I can't help my appetite.

Miss Witty. Nor I my wit.

Miss Avide. You are always teasing me about eating.

Miss Witty. And you me about speaking.

Miss Avide. My eating hurts nobody but myself; but your wit is often offensive to others.

Miss Witty. You mistake; your eating offends your papa and mamma, who would be very glad if you ate less, and learned more.

Miss Avide. You'll make me despise learning.

Miss Witty. And you me eating.

Miss Avide. I wish you'd go about your business, Miss Witty.

Miss Witty. I have no business to do, for I have learned my task. What say you?

Miss Avide. Hang the tasks.

Miss Witty. Nay, rather hang yourself, and leave the vacuum for one, who would learn to manage your fortune.

Miss Avide. I'll stay no longer with you. *[Exit. Miss]*

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Miss Witty. Nor I neither, for I see my Governess coming. [Exit.

Enter Governess and Miss Wisely.

Gov. Well, Miss Wisely, have you been able to make any discovery yet?

Miss Wisely. No, Ma'am, I have had some groundless accusations made to me—but too trivial to acquaint you with.

Gov. Well, my dear, persevere until you make a discovery.

Miss Wisely. You may rest assured I will.

[*Gov. exiens & rediens.*

Gov. Oh, Miss Wisely! My dear, about the ladies clothes, are they in forwardness for packing up for the holidays.

Miss Wisely. Yes, Ma'am, every thing is ready whenever you please to order the packing.

Gov. Well then, Miss Wisely, we'll fix it for this afternoon.—Let me consider, have I any thing else to speak about at present?—Oh, Miss Workwell's ruffles.

Miss Wisely. They'll be finished, Ma'am.

Gov. That's well; I am very glad of it; for I would not willingly disappoint her, because she has been very obliging and useful in recommending the school.—Oh let us take care that Miss Gripe's things are all right, for I have not forgot the commotion about the old tippet that was lost.—And be careful that Miss Avidé has as much as she can eat, or else she'll complain again to her parents that she is starved.

Miss Wisely. I have been very circumspect in Miss Gripe's things, and will take special care that Miss Avidé shall have enough.

G

Gov.

Gov. Well then, all's well so far;—so now I'll go and order things for dinner. [*Exit.*]

Enter Miss Fiere.

Miss Wisely. Ah, Miss Fiere!

Miss Fiere. I owe you no conversation.

[*Haughtily.*]

Miss Wisely. Indeed, Miss Fiere, I know not why you affect so much pride and arrogance, or what you have to be proud of.

Miss Fiere. What! is not my papa a gentleman? and am I not admired for my beauty?

Miss Wisely. I must confess that your person is well formed and handsome; and if your mind was equal to it, you would have, perhaps, some thing to be proud of.—But let me tell you, that unless you attempt to adorn your mind, your beauty will be only the admiration of the ignorant and conceited coxcomb, and you will be disregarded and neglected by men of sense and understanding. And when that beauty fades, you will have the unspeakable mortification to see yourself despised, even by those who were once your admirers.

Miss Fiere. You may say what you please; but I shall not follow the dictates of a teacher in a boarding school.

Miss Wisely. 'Tis your duty to obey your teachers.

Miss Fiere. No, no; I have been taught quite otherwise; for before I came to this school, I went to a genteel school in town, where they used to learn tasks every evening, but I never learned any.

Miss Wisely. Why so?

Miss

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Miss Fiere. Why I no sooner took my books to learn what was imposed on me, but my papa and mamma ordered me peremptorily to put them away, telling me it was sufficient to learn at school, without confusing myself with books at home. I told them I should be punished for neglect of duty; but they told me I should not be punished, for they would send an excuse for me. By this means I had tasks given me every night, but I never learned them; and therefore disregarded entirely the injunctions of my teachers, although they were accompanied with threats of punishment.—These things I communicated to the ladies of the school, who, some by one means, and some by another, always evaded the learning tasks.

Miss Wisely. But what said the Governess?

Miss Fiere. At first she was provoked to see her consequence lessened; but she was obliged to submit; for we were her best scholars, and she was in fear of offending our parents, and losing us.—Besides, I am sure — Oh here comes Miss Depit; I'll go and meet her. [Exit.

Miss Wisely Solo.

Who could suppose that parents could furnish their children with such dangerous weapons against themselves, and their children's future happiness. — No wonder that teachers are treated with such insolence, if these precepts are given at home.—But, parents, look to the consequences! do not repine at being neglected and disregarded by your children, if you yourselves teach them to neglect and disregard their instructors. For that contempt with which they treat the one,

will inevitably in time fall with redoubled weight on the other.—Ah, Miss Depit!

Enter Miss Depit.

Miss Depit. I don't like you.

Miss Wisely. Why what's the reason, Miss Depit?

Miss Depit. Because I'm continually punished by your complaints.

Miss Wisely. 'Tis because I'm your friend.

Miss Depit. Excellent friendship really, I must confess, to procure punishment for your friend.

Miss Wisely. If you will not receive it as friendship, you will allow 'tis my duty.

Miss Depit. Then I should be very glad if you would forego that part of your duty.

Miss Wisely. I assure you, Miss, 'tis pain and trouble to me to cause you to be punished.

Miss Depit. One would not think so, when you practice it so often.

Miss Wisely. The fault is not mine; for if you would perform the duties of the school, you would never be punished, but always rewarded.

Miss Depit. Yes; if I were like you, always reading and studying, talking about connections, ideas, phraseology, and transposition at every spare moment, I suppose I should be a favourite as well as Miss Witty, Miss Friendly, and others.

Miss Wisely. 'Tis true, Miss Witty and Miss Friendly will become, by their present industry in learning, blazing stars in the assemblies of the wise and learned; while those, neglectful of education, will be sunk into obscurity.

Miss Depit. I wish we were to change situations for a week; I'd have you punished every day,
and

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and then I should see whether you would call it friendship and duty.

Miss Wisely. Indeed, you are very much mistaken; for I would perform every duty imposed on me.

Miss Depit. That you should not, for I would impose what you could not do.

Miss Wisely. Then you would act unjustly, and not do as you would be done to.

Miss Depit. I don't care for that, I'd have you punished, for I dislike you. [Exit.

Miss Wisely Sola.

What a disagreeable office is a teacher in a boarding school! So many tempers to please; so much anxiety for children's improvement; so much malevolence from the disobedient and refractory, because you are obliged by duty to compel them to perform those things, that the practice of mild means will not produce.—So much fatigue, and so little profit, that a menial domestic (except the respectability of the occupation) is far preferable.

A cry from within.

Miss Captious. Miss Wisely, Miss Wisely, save me!

Miss Wisely. Bless me, what's the matter?

Miss Captious. Oh, Miss Maline!

[*Miss Captious without her cap, which is in the hand of Miss Maline.*

Miss Wisely. What's the cause of this?—
Miss Maline always in some mischief, and disturbing the peace of others.

Miss

Miss Maline. Indeed, Miss Wisely, the fault is not mine. — For I went to sit down just now in the school upon the French form near Miss Captious, and happened to sit upon her frock unintentionally. — She immediately arose, tweaked me by the nose, and run away.

Miss Wisely. I'm surpris'd that two such friends as Miss Maline and Miss Captious, should ever disagree about such a trifle.

Miss Maline. Miss Captious is always so very testy and peevish, that a misplaced word will sometimes offend her. — And then she carries things to such lengths.

Miss Captious. Not so testy and peevish as you're mischievous Miss. I did not cut the covers of the forms, nor tear Miss Taudry's frock. — I did not cut Miss Slow-work's apron by the advice of Miss Depit, in order that the blame might fall on Miss Wisely.

Miss Wisely. Upon my honour, ladies, I am very much obliged to you for your intelligence. — 'Tis the best piece of news I've heard for a long time.

Miss Maline. There, Miss Captious. — There's a proof of your friendship, upon my word!

[*Miss Captious and Miss Maline fall on their knees, intreating Miss Wisely not to tell their Governess.*]

Miss Captious. Dear Miss Wisely, pray don't tell my Governess.

Miss Maline. No, dear Miss Wisely, don't tell my Governess; and when I return to school after the vacation, I'll bring you laces, ribbands, money, and ———. Here, Miss Wisely, here's a letter.

[*Presents the letter to Miss Wisely.*
Miss

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Miss Wisely. A letter! (Takes it and reads, and in tearing it says) 'Tis very well, 'tis a thing of no consequence; but how came the seal broke?

Miss Captious. Miss Fiere, Miss Depit, and Miss Fullgold, desired me to break it open, and give it my Governess.

Enter Governess.

Hey day, what's the meaning of this? Miss Maline and Miss Captious on their knees to Miss Wisely!—A very strange sight truly!—What's the cause of it?

[*Miss Maline and Miss Captious hide their faces.*

Gov. Miss Wisely, I insist upon knowing the cause of this.

Miss Wisely. Shall I tell your Governess, ladies?

Both. No, dear Miss Wisely!

Miss Wisely. As the cause only concerns me, I beg you'll desist from all further enquiry.

Gov. A Governess should know every transaction in a school. I therefore peremptorily insist upon knowing this.

Miss Wisely. Then, Ma'am, before I inform you why these ladies are on their knees to me, and as I pardon the offence, I must intreat your forgiveness also.

Gov. You know, Miss Wisely, I am not inexorable; so let us go into the back parlour, and there we can talk the matter over without interruption.

[*Exeunt Miss Wisely and Gov.*

Miss Captious. (Rising) Oh dear, what shall we do?

Miss Maline. I don't know, but 'tis all your fault.

Miss Captious. You provoked me to it.

Miss

Miss Maline. Nothing should have provoked you to betray the secrets of your friend.

Miss Captious. I am very sorry, but I can't help it now.

Miss Maline. I don't mind what is done; but the crime of denying, when I was interrogated so closely about cutting the forms, the frock, and the apron—'tis that stings me!

Miss Captious. Oh, as for that, I don't see so great a crime in telling a falsehood.

Miss Maline. No, not a crime in deviating from the truth!

Miss Captious. No, Miss; for at the last vacation when I was at home, a gentleman came to enquire for my papa, my mamma denied him. I knowing my papa to be at home, innocently said, yes, mamma, my papa is in the dining-room writing.—Telling the truth so offended my papa and mamma, that I was sent to bed at six o'clock without my tea.

Miss Maline. You surprize me!

Miss Captious. Yes, and at another time would read me a lecture of half an hour upon the danger of story telling.—Why dear me, I have heard my Governess at my last school tell such palpable falsehoods to my mamma about my work, till I have been almost frightened.

Miss Maline. Indeed.

Miss Captious. Yes, indeed; for I remember one time in particular I heard her declare, that I had performed all the work in a piece of embroidery, and I well know that I did not do the tenth part.—And surely Miss, if story telling in my parents and teachers is not a fault, you cannot account it criminal in me.

Miss

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Miss Maline. And why did you not undeceive your mamma?

Miss Captious. Because it was looked upon as a capital crime to relate any concern of the school, and always punished very severely.

Enter Miss Witty.

Ah, Miss Maline and Miss Captious, how do ye do? Why ye look sad!—What, are ye imitating Shakespeare's patience on a monument smiling at grief?

Miss Maline. We have no cause to be merry!

Miss Witty. Nor cause to be sad, when I am with you.—Wit, is the soul of company.

Miss Captious. True; seasonable wit, like seasonable physic, is wholesome; otherwise 'tis nauseous and disagreeable.

Miss Witty. And as the most nauseous and disagreeable is very often the most salutary—so I will prescribe my wit in the same manner, and will try to purge you of your bad qualities.

Miss Maline. Then you shall practice by yourself, for we will leave you.

Miss Witty. That you shall not do, for I will follow you.

Miss Captious. I beg, Miss Witty, you'll not incommode us, but insist on your leaving us.

Miss Witty. Why then you'll have me do as your senses have done; for I fear they have left you, never to return.

Miss Maline. Is it not very astonishing, that we can never speak without having an offensive reply?

Miss Witty. I mean on all occasions to render myself as disagreeable to you, as a rusty needle

H

to

to a delicate worker, or a discordant harpsichord to a refined ear.

Miss Captious. But why so, Miss Witty?

Miss Witty. Because you treat Miss Wisely so ungenerously; and you may depend on it, that until you make a reform in your conduct, I will not retract or diminish my severity, but will be a true mirror; for whenever you see me, you shall behold your vice and deformity.

Miss Maline. You are very provoking, Miss Witty.

Miss Witty. I wish I could provoke you to be candid and grateful; but that would be more insurmountable than dispossessing the ignorant of their prejudices, or an old governess of her mode of instruction.

Miss Captious. You'll make yourself disliked by every body.

Miss Witty. Why if I thought I resembled you, I should wish the Fates to snatch me from the living, and rid the world of one of the furies.

Miss Captious. Come along, Miss Maline, this is too much; we'll stay no longer. [Exeunt.]

Enter Miss Wisely.

Miss Witty. Miss Wisely, do you know what's the matter with Miss Captious and Miss Maline? for they appear as sad, as if they were deprived of a hot breakfast in a cold morning, or were going to a ball with dirty caps, without flowers or feathers.

Miss Wisely. Why I have made, by accident, an important discovery; for a quarrel between Miss Maline and Miss Captious, has developed the

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the great mystery of all the mischiefs that have been done so long in the school.

Miss Witty. Oh, Miss Wisely, what joy you give me! — Well, and does my Governess know it?

Miss Wisely. Yes.

Miss Witty. And I hope they'll be condignly punished.

Miss Wisely. No, they will not be punished I assure you; for I have interceded for them, and have procured their pardon.

Miss Witty. Is it possible? — You, who have suffered so much by their baseness?

Miss Wisely. Yes, my dear Miss Witty, I have pardoned them, although so great a crime, in hopes they may reflect, and be sensible of its atrociousness, and never again be guilty of such like offences.

Enter Servant.

Miss Wisely, my mistress would be glad to speak to you.

Miss Wisely. Where is she?

Servant. In the garden, Miss, with a lady.

Miss Wisely. Adieu, Miss Witty. [Exit.

Miss Witty, Sol.

What an estimable lady is Miss Wisely! — She is wise, prudent, kind, generous, and amiable! — What pity it is that she has not a fortune equal to her accomplishments! — With her, a teacher, I could wish to spend my life at school! — At the name of Wisely, every body seems charmed, except some few unworthies!

*She, if the Virtues, Graces can inspire,
Is all the Gods can give, or we require.*

[Exit.

Enter Governess and Mrs. Skillful.

Gov. You see, Ma'am, we are very agreeably situated; fine gardens for the amusement of the ladies, and a very salubrious air.

Mrs. Skillful. Yes, Ma'am, here is every thing that can contribute to health; but the place is not to be compared to a good Education.—

~~And I have got his learning in a porter house,
Ben Johnson on scaffolds and in a hole.~~

Gov. Madam, you are very obliging, and I assure you, in the instruction of your young lady, I'll strive to merit and establish your good opinion.

Mrs. Skillful. Indeed, Mrs. Teachwell, you deserve all the eulogium that I can bestow.—I have proved your merit by an examination of Miss Friendly, Miss Learnwell, and others, and find their education just and methodical.—I don't mean in large volumes of needle-work, maps, embroidery, and whole suits of linen; but the more valuable branches of Education, good reading, good orthography, capable to indite half a dozen lines correct in sense and diction, this I call learning; and the other an amusement, and ought to be used only as a relaxation from intellectual studies.

Gov. How very just are your observations on Education! and if every one was as capable of judging—Governesses of real merit would be adequately recompensed.—But 'tis too often the case, that parents expect a child's work to be sufficient in value to pay for her education.

Enter

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Enter Miss Wisely.

Gov. Miss Wisely, here is a lady will delight you—her sentiments on education are similar to our's.

Miss Wisely. I shall be very happy to have a share in the instruction of a young lady, where the teacher's ability, care, and assiduity, can be perceived by the parent.

Mrs. Skillful. Ladies, you will upon trial find my daughter deficient; therefore must intreat your utmost care and attention.

Gov. Every means that my experience can suggest, shall be employed for the speedy improvement of Miss.

Miss Wisely. And I will not spare pains and diligence to aid the undertaking.

[The lady gives money to Miss Wisely.]

Governess and lady speak together, Miss Wisely walking about the stage.

Gov. I will punctually observe all your requisitions.

Mrs. Skillful. For the rest, I entirely depend on you.

Enter Servant.

The carriage is at the door, Ma'am.

Mrs. Skillful. Oh very well, I'm coming.—

Mrs Teachwell your most humble servant.—

Miss Wisely, I wish you a good day.

[Governess offering to go with the lady.]

Mrs. Skillful. I beg, Ma'am, you'll not trouble yourself.

Gov.

Gov. Permit us to attend you to your carriage. [Exeunt.]

Enter Betty.

Well, well, five shillings to day, and two half crowns yesterday, this will do very well.—I am sure, that as much as in me lies, they shall have every indulgence that I can give them.—I'll take care that their breakfasts shall be larger, and better buttered, than those who do not give me so handsome.—Dear me, how people talk about generosity!—Aye, aye, when this is the case, it makes people generous.—The old proverb says, money makes the mare to go; and so it will servants too.—Now let me see a few more such days as these, and then I'll have a gown and coat such as my mistress; and then I shall be a lady, aye, and a governess too in time, why not? Lord, people think, that because one's a servant, one is to have no ambition.

Re-enter Governess and Miss Wisely.

Gov. Indeed, Miss Wisely, she is a very generous lady, and a very good judge of learning.

Miss Wisely. Generous indeed, Ma'am; she has complimented me with two guineas.

Gov. And paid the entrance without murmur or objection.—It has long been my method, Miss Wisely, to treat all the ladies equal, whether the terms were adequate or not; but I will change my conduct, and pay a particular attention to the most generous and best terms.

Miss Wisely. Indeed, Ma'am, I think it is but just it should be so.

Gov.

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Gov. Now, Miss Wisely, you'll go, and prepare all things for the reception of Miss; and I, in the interim, will go and order tea to be got in readiness. [Exit Gov.]

Miss Entet  enters.

Miss Wisely, Miss Wisely, what have we got a new scholar?

Miss Wisely. Yes, Miss; and a very promising young lady, I assure you.

Miss Entet . What business is her papa?

Miss Wisely. No business, Miss; he's a gentleman.

Miss Entet . Oh, I am very glad of it; for that will mortify Miss Fiere, Miss Captious, and Miss Maline.—But what's the reason that she is come to school so near the vacation?

Miss Wisely. Why her mamma has had a very considerable estate left her in the West Indies, and her papa and mamma are obliged to leave England immediately, to take possession of it; therefore Miss Skillful will continue at school till their return.

Miss Entet . Has she got nice cloaths, Miss Wisely?

Miss Wisely. Come with me in my room, and you shall see them, for I am going to take an inventory of them. [Exeunt.]

Enter Governesses, Solas.

Fifty guineas a year, and five guineas entrance, is a very good scholar.—But what is more desirable, Mrs. Skillful is a lady who is a judge of education, and knows the business of a governess. What

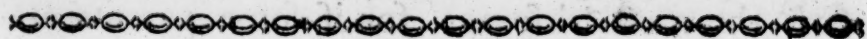
56 THE GOVERNESS; OR, THE

—What pleasure to have to do with the genteel and well bred! Such sweetness of manners, such refinement of sentiment, such softness in speech, and such easy behaviour, render the connection truly agreeable. For,

*When Parents can of Learning judge aright,
To teach is then, both Profit and Delight.*

END OF THE SECOND ACT.

ACT



A C T III.

The Curtain rises, and discovers the Governess and Miss Wisely drinking Tea.

[*Servant waiting.*

Governess.

BETTY, put some water in the pot.
Governess sips, and says to Wisely,

Governess sips, and says to Wisely,

Is your tea agreeable, Miss Wisely?

Miss Wisely. Yes, Ma'am, it is very agreeable, and I relish it exceedingly this afternoon, after a fatiguing day.

Gov. True, Miss Wisely, it has been a very fatiguing day.—The successive visits from the parents, and the irregularity that those visits occasion among the children, have incommoded us very much. But in all occupations, Miss Wisely, we must expect inconveniences.

Miss Wisely. True, Ma'am; disagreeable occurrences will arise, no doubt, in every station or life.—But I think that of a Governess the most arduous and laborious of all genteel professions.

Gov. To be sure, Miss Wisely, our profession
abounds with inconveniences, cares, and troubles.
For we have, First, The childrens tempers and
dispositions to study, in order to form a regular
method whereby they may make the most rapid
improvement.—Secondly, The parents tempers,
I whereby

whereby we may retain their children. This is a part the most irksome: for if some parents are not carested, and their opinions and judgment flattered, we lose their children. These sort of people are content with smooth language, and affable manners, never thinking on the importance of their childrens improvement; but suppose there is a kind of magic in a boarding school, that if they are there they must learn, whether methods are taken for the purpose or not. And this it is that makes so many governesses at this time pursue such modes of pleasing the parent, rather than instructing the child, because they know, by experience, that is the best method of promoting their business.

Miss Wisely. I must confess, Ma'am, that this sort of governesses are not indebted to you for eulogiums.

Gov. Indeed, Miss Wisely, what I say is true; and there are quacks in our profession as well as in all others. For I suppose, if boarding schools were be examined into, there would be found a great number, whose governesses are decayed tradesmen's wives, and not possessed of more education than is necessary to provide for a family, and manage a kitchen.

Miss Wisely. How unfit are such persons for the tuition of children!

Gov. Why, the terms, Miss Wisely, are a sufficient indication of their inability.—Can you imagine that twelve or fourteen pounds per annum, sufficient to board and educate a child?

Miss Wisely. No, Ma'am; I should think it was scarcely adequate to pay for the nursing a child.—And I am surpris'd how parents can think their children

children can be boarded and instructed on such terms.

Gov. Oh, Miss Wisely, cheapness and œconomy in education, are very predominant at this time; and we must not wonder at it, since dress and appearance call for such large supplies. And certain it is, that education decreases, by the diminution of price; for persons of ability will, and ought to be paid as such.

Miss Wisely. But are not such governesses easily detected by the skilful and discerning?

Gov. Nothing more easy; for the awkwardness of their behaviour, the barbarousness of their language, and the impropriety of their manners, at once betray them, and exposes, through a genteel external appearance, how little worthy and capable they are of their profession.

Miss Wisely. What a gross imposition on the public, that such persons should be suffered to undertake the education of children!

Gov. I could wish a plan was adopted by Parliament to restrain all such persons from the business of teachers, unless examined by proper persons that the Legislature should appoint; and those persons qualified, should have a certificate from such great authority. This would be the effectual means of rewarding persons of real merit.

Miss Wisely. What pity 'tis that parents cannot educate their children!

Gov. True, Miss Wisely. Education should begin in the first state of infancy, and be continued with care till a proper age. And then, if parents are not capable, or have not leisure sufficient, let them be transplanted in a boarding

school of merit, where virtue and morality, blended with good literature, are the reigning properties. The effects of such education would be great and glorious. But at home, children hear and see too often, things unfit for their tender years; and I am sorry to say, that sometimes parents let fall improper and loose words in the hearing of children, that they think children do not attend to. Some are very much hurt and corrupted from a street acquaintance, where nothing can be learned but vulgar sayings, and improper practices. These are brought to schools, and being canvassed in their little minds, assist very much to vitiate them; and in future, parents wonder where their children have learned such things, and too often attribute them to boarding schools.

Miss Wisely. Indeed, Ma'am, if what you say is true, I do not wonder that our sex in general are so badly instructed, and return to their parents with so little intrinsic knowledge, after passing a long series of years at school.

Gov. There is another cause; the generality of parents expect a great deal of needle-work, because they are judges of it.—Dancing, as being a polite accomplishment, and sets off their children to the best advantage in company.—It is very necessary these should be done; but then the more valuable branches of education should not be left undone.

Miss Wisely. Pray, Ma'am, what is the reason that the French language is so badly taught, in general, in England?

Gov. 'Tis the mediocrity of the price that causes the French language to be so ill-taught in
our

our schools.—For can you suppose that half a guinea per quarter is sufficient for a man of ability to teach a foreign language? or can you imagine that an able foreigner, a man of erudition, will pass his time in England to teach his own language, for so small a pittance?

Miss Wisely. And 'tis for that reason we have French so badly taught in some schools in England!

Gov. Most certainly; for the greatest part of French masters are Swissers, or Provincials, persons of mean birth, and no education; some having travelled through France in the capacity of servants, and having acquired the loquacious part of the language, come to England, engage themselves for French masters in our schools, and sometimes in those called respectable ones.

Miss Wisely. And pray, Ma'am, is it the same with female teachers, commonly called *Mdemoiselles*?

Gov. Why just the same; they have been for the most part servants in some of the provinces in France, and disliking servitude in their own country, seek it in a more respectable line of life, that of a French teacher in a boarding school. And what is very astonishing, these people are esteemed because they are wholly ignorant of English; as if it was possible to teach French to a native of England, or English to a native of France, without having a competent knowledge of both languages.

Miss Wisely. Are there not abuses practised in boarding schools by such illiterate people?

Gov. Oh, *Miss Wisely*, 'tis incredible what great abuses are exercised in boarding schools. I have

have known whole suits of linen worked for a teacher by the ladies, at a time when they should have been in bed and asleep, and unknown to the governesses.—Some teachers, because the ladies do not bring them money after each recess—for some parents are not so generous as others.—And teachers are mean enough to find frequent causes to punish them, and to treat them with neglect and severity.

Miss Wisely. Indeed, Ma'am; is it possible that teachers can be so despicably mean?

Gov. Not when we consider what they are for the most part. Why I have known that they have accepted the ladies laces that have been inserted in the inventory. And when interrogated why they have received such things, have replied with confidence, The ladies gave them to me.

Miss Wisely. How base and unjust! And what pity it is that such crimes are suffered to pass with impunity!—Alas! Alas! what sort of conduct must I hold, if by any unforeseen event I should be obliged to leave you!—And how happy ought I to be, that I have been placed in such a good family, where such criminalities are not practised. Happy should I be, if it was in my power to compensate all the kindnesses that I have received from you.—The small sum that my uncle has paid, is too trifling a recompense for the education that I have received; but if ever I should enjoy the smiles of fortune, you may command me.

Gov. Ah, my dear Miss Wisely, I believe your intention is noble; but young folks are so accustomed to change their sentiments with their fortunes, that if pressed by necessity, I should be
happy

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happy to experience your proffered friendship, but very sorry to have an occasion for it.—I know not what fortune intends for me in future; but I am sure riches are not acquired by school keeping.

Enter Betty.

Miss Wisely, here is a letter for you.

Miss Wisely. I know by the superscription it comes from my kind uncle. Ma'am, if you please, I'll retire.

Gov. No, no, Miss Wisely, you may peruse it here; I'll not interrupt you.

[Miss Wisely opens the letter and reads,

My dear Niece,

Prepare yourself for the most unexpected, and the most happy piece of news, that could arrive. I have often told you, that your father died when you were two years old, and that he left you to my care. But at that time his circumstances, by losses on the seas, reduced him to the cruel necessity of leaving his native country, and seek a fortune in the East Indies.—He is now returned with a ship, laden with riches of an immense value, and will accompany me to see you in about two hours.

Miss Wisely. Oh, my father lives! *[Faints.]*

Gov. She faints! she faints! Help, Betty! Ladies, help!

Betty and Ladies enter.

Betty. Poor dear Miss Wisely! — My heart bleeds

bleeds to see you thus; for I'm sure you are a good creature!

Gov. Lead her to my room, and get ready some hartshorn and water speedily!—This news comes too sudden for her spirits.

[*Exeunt Gov. and Betty.*]

Manent Miss Friendly, Miss Witty, and others.

Miss Friendly. Alas, poor Miss Wisely! I wonder what's the cause of this?

Miss Depit. Oh never mind, I am glad of it, she had not pity on me yesterday.—I am sure if she were to die, I should not care.

Miss Friendly. Are you not ashamed to utter such thoughts?—Because you merited the punishment you received, you are angry with Miss Wisely. Oh fie! Oh fie!

Miss Witty. Excellent method of revenge, truly; to burn your books, because you were punished for not learning your task!—Like farmer Gaspall's wife, who killed nine pigs out of revenge to a sow, because she did not litter ten! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Miss Depit. I don't like you better than Miss Wisely; for you resemble her in all things.

Miss Witty. Your love and respect I ask you not for. If I have the esteem of Miss Wisely, I value your's as a counterfeit guinea to a standard one.

Miss Fullgold. I don't esteem Miss Wisely, for all you can say in her behalf.

Miss Witty. Oh, your esteem is like the present mode of gauze, which is of no material use; and when examined, found to be but poor flimsy stuff.

Miss

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Miss Fullgold. Your insolence is unsufferable, and your comparisons odious.

Miss Witty. Odious you may think 'em, but I assure you they are just; and I declare you are more strange, inconsistent, and unnatural, than all the Metamorphoses of Ovid.

Miss Friendly. And her hatred to you will exceed that of Juno for Æneas.

Miss Entet . I cannot say that I am fond of Miss Wisely.

Miss Friendly. My dear, that is not at all to be wondered at; for you have not been at school long enough to discern and experience her good qualities.

Miss Fiere. Every body dislikes Miss Wisely.

Miss Witty. Every body, like Miss Fiere, whose whole judgment consists in bagatelles of dress, resembling the ass when ornamented with flowers, wondering at the ignorance of the other beasts in not electing him their king.

Miss Maline. I hate her.

Miss Witty. Indeed, I don't believe you love her; but your love would be as insipid to Miss Wisely, as water gruel without salt.

Miss Maline. Why you abominable creature, you are so provoking I can hardly contain myself.

Miss Witty. Contain yourself; I know you contain more inflammable gas than would fill Lunardi's balloon, with this difference, that instead of ascending in the light airy atmosphere of Jupiter, you will descend in the black sooty regions of Pluto.

Miss Captious. I hate her mortally.

K

Miss

Miss Witty. So much the better; for your mortal hatred will cause her fame to be immortal.

Miss Fiere. You see, ladies, there is no possibility of gaining any advantage; let us attack her all together.

Miss Witty. You'll not find in me, perhaps, one of those generals, who can boast of courage in the senate, and capitulate in the field.—No, J'ai bec and ongles; and if attacked, will defend myself, Amazon like, against a legion, knowing the virtue of my cause.

Miss Friendly. I'll assist you, Miss Witty, if they use violence.

Miss Witty. Then there is nought to fear; for we can crush them as Hercules did the hydra of Lerna.—But let me know the cause of complaint.

Miss Friendly. You know it very well; they condemn Miss Wisely's duty for malevolence.

Miss Witty. Oh, 'tis very common with the ignorant to despise others, for qualities they possess not.—What says Miss Depit?

Miss Depit. Say? why that you, Miss Friendly, and Miss Wisely, are ———

Miss Witty. Three sworn friends, that despise and condemn all that Miss Depit can say or do.

Miss Depit. Oh, I'll seek revenge another way, that's what I will. [Exit.

Miss Witty. I'm sure it will be vulture-like upon yourself.—And what says Miss Fiere?

Miss Fiere. I shall say nothing, indeed.

Miss Witty. That's wise; for you have nothing to say or shew but haughty airs.

Miss

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Miss Fiere. Why then I'll tell you, that you are an insolent, impertinent creature, and not worth my notice. *[Exit haughtily.]*

Miss Witty. And now you have emitted your rancour; but 'tis Phoenix like, fans the fire that consumes her.—What says Miss Simple?

Miss Simple. Indeed, Miss Witty, I have no dislike of my own for Miss Wisely, but I was advised to it.—I'm sure she always treated me very kind, that's what she did.—I'll be of their party no longer. *[Exit.]*

Miss Witty looking about,

Hey day, what all gone and left me?

Miss Friendly. Aye, Miss Witty, you may now say with Cæsar, Veni, vidi, vici.

Miss Witty. Indeed, Miss Friendly, I am astonished that Miss Wisely is so much disliked by the ladies.

Miss Friendly. Why 'tis always the case in schools, where teachers do their duty conscientiously.

Miss Witty. I believe, if Miss Wisely was to cajole the ladies of their money, and excuse them to my Governess, she would be better liked.

Miss Friendly. But Miss Wisely's soul is formed of another species of matter. She detests a meanness; and would suffer the rack, rather than betray her trust.—Oh here she comes, but seems afflicted!

Enter Miss Wisely.

Miss Friendly. Ah! my dear Miss Wisely sad!
From whence comes sadness to my friend?

Miss Witty. What can have given cause for sadness in dear Miss Wisely, whose appearance to me is as agreeable and animating, as the warm refulgent rays of the sun in a cold cloudy day?

Miss Wisely, looking first at one, and then at the other, sighing,

Oh! my father lives!

Both. Astonishing!

Miss Wisely. 'Tis true; and I have just had an interview with him.

Miss Friendly. Then why sad, my dear? you have reason to be joyful!

Miss Witty. Joyful! aye, as a poor author at a full benefit; or a young governess at a full school.

Miss Wisely. I confess it; and my sadness is a joyful one!—But 'tis impossible for you to have the sensations that I have on the occasion.—I, who have never known my parents!—After an absence of eighteen years, supposing myself an orphan, cherished and supported by an uncle.—The sudden appearance of a father that I never knew, must produce great emotions of pleasure and pain.—Oh, my dear friends, to see the parent, after so long an absence, embracing tenderly his only child; thanking Heaven, with grateful heart, for our deliverance from manifold dangers and distresses, sighing, with pitying look; while the paternal tear, which he striving to conceal, stealing softly from his eyes, fell on my cheek, and rent my soul with sorrow. I wept. My father wept; and striving to console each other, tears stopt our speech; and with a mutual look of joy and anguish, we were separated.

Miss

Miss Friendly. Oh, my dear Miss Wisely, how your narration affects me! But suffering with our friend, is friendship's noblest attribute.

Miss Wisely. Indeed, my dear, it would have touched your sensibility, to have heard the many doubts and fears for my present safety—the many anxieties and cares for my future welfare—and the many vicissitudes of fortune that he has experienced during his absence.

Miss Friendly. Have you heard any account of your mamma, for perhaps she is living?

Miss Wisely. I enquired if my mamma was living?—He sighing, answered no; and told me, she died some few hours after my birth, and had left me a pledge of that love and affection which united them.—That I was the lively image of all her external beauties.—And then, turning to my Governess, said, I hope her internal qualifications equallize; for she was amiable indeed. My Governess replied, that he would not find me deficient, either in education, or in the qualities of the mind.—Then, he said, I am completely happy; and enjoined me to recompense my Governess for her great care and tenderness, which I thank Heaven I can now do, for I have fortune sufficient.

Miss Friendly. Fortune sufficient, Miss Wisely! What pleasure to hear! Why this is fair weather after a storm.

Miss Witty. This will be a greater torment to Miss Fiere, Miss Fullgold, Miss Depit, and Miss Maline, than a flannel shift to a nun; the oar to the galley slave; want of teeth to an old woman; or a good appetite at a feast, without the permission

mission of eating.—Oh, here comes my Governess; let us go, Miss Friendly.

Both. Adieu pour le present ma chere amie !

[*Exeunt. Manet Wisely.*]

Enter Governess.

Miss Wisely, my dear, how do you find yourself now ?

Miss Wisely. My mind is a little more composed, and I am very much obliged to you for your care. But pray, Ma'am, how does my father ?

Gov. My dear, he is very well, and just gone to town with your uncle, his immediate appearance being necessary respecting the landing some of his packages.

Miss Wisely. And without taking leave of me ?

Gov. My dear, 'twas I advised him to depart so abruptly ; and would not have done it, if my experience had not suggested reasons to me for so doing ; for I assure you, it was with repugnance he departed. But he'll return tomorrow.

Miss Wisely. Kind, tender parent !—How surprised I am that children in general esteem so little the company of their parents, and are so little obedient to them. The name of parent alone seems to delight me, and transport me with pleasure.

Gov. My dear, the great reasons why children are so disobedient, arises from the indiscretion of parents.. Some, from a too great indulgence in early infancy, and a sudden change, without the child's perceiving the reason.—Others, from a rigidity of conduct towards their children, causes the parent very often to be disobeyed and disregarded ;

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garded ; and too often from the parent's counter-acting the commands at school ; by which means the child loses all respect and reverence for teachers, and in little time they lose all respect, duty, and reverence for their parents.—And from hence arises that common, I may say, almost universal practice of ingratitude in children, speaking disrespectful of their teachers after they have left school.—A thing so common, that not only saying disrespectful things themselves, they excite good children to adopt the same sentiments and opinions ; and this being delivered from one to another, it is very uncommon to find a child having left school, who does not treat the name, manners, and conduct of their teachers, with disrespect and ridicule.

Miss Wisely. I have great reason to believe your observations just on the conduct of parents towards their children. But what a delirium, to trust the education of children to teachers, and to teach children to act repugnant to their precepts and documents.

Gov. My dear, this often happens ; because parents, not being capable to judge themselves, entrust the education of their children to improper and illiterate people, not following the advice of Mr. Gay :

- “ Seek you to train your fav’rite boy,
- “ Each caution, ev’ry care employ ;
- “ And ere you venture to confide,
- “ Let his preceptor’s heart be try’d.
- “ Weigh well his manners, life, and scope ;
- “ On these depend thy future hope.”

Enter

Enter Betty.

Ma'am, here is Mr. Harmony, the musicianer, come to know what time he must come in the evening for the ball?

Gov. At five o'clock precisely, and beg he'll be punctual. [*Exit Betty.*]

Apropos. Miss Wisely, you'll accompany us at the ball?

Miss Wisely. Most certainly, Ma'am; but as my papa intends my leaving you, I beg I may first take leave of the ladies, lest after the ball I should not have an opportunity.

Gov. Well, we'll walk in the parlour, take a glass of wine, and then I'll order the ladies to attend for that purpose. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Ladies.

1st Lady. What dress shall you have at the ball?

2d Lady. Why, Miss, I shall have a pink silk slip, trimmed with gauze and Italian flowers, a cap with feathers and flowers, and pink shoes spangled. And pray, Miss, what shall you have?

1st Lady. Oh, Miss, I shall have a fine muslin frock, and all things answerable.

2d Lady. Oh, I shall be better dressed than you!

1st Lady. I don't know that, Miss; for my Governess says, that elegance and taste does not consist in shew and glare.

Enter Betty.

Ladies, ladies, your Governess wants you all now directly this minute; for Miss Wisely is a going

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going to take her leave of you, and to bid you
all a good bye.

[*Exeunt Ladies.*]

Betty Sola.

Well, 'tis a bad wind as blows nobody no good; for I think I shall get something by Miss Wisely's good luck. She has promised me all her cloaths. Oh, she is a sweet, dear, good natured lady, and so kindly spoken too, that it would do one's heart good to hear her, even when she demonishes the ladies.—Lord, Lord, what riches she has got, they say. This India must be a vast rich place, I wish as how I could get there, but mayhap 'tis like London, paved with stones; instead of gold, when we poor servants go there. They told me, London was a nation rich place, so I believe it is; but very little of its riches comes to the share of us poor servants; for I know very well that they must work hard, early and late, for six or eight pound a year, and that sometimes they find hard to get, because their mistresses are so extravagant in their own dress, and will think much if a servant, after she has worked hard for her money, should wear a wired cap, or a flounced petticoat.—Howsomdever, Well, this I can say, that a school is not a bad place for a servant, there is something pretty to be picked up in it to be sure; but then one can't have one's sweetheart because of the ladies, tho' I believe to my heart that is very right. For there be some of the ladies, I'm sure, who would not run away at the sight of a pretty fellow; for I remember very well that Miss Loveman would have been very glad.—Oh, here comes my

L

mistress,

mistress, with Miss Wisely and the ladies! I must be gone. [Exit.]

Enter Governess, Miss Wisely, and Ladies.

Gov. Ladies, I have called ye together on an occasion, both pleasing and sorrowful.—The good fortune of Miss Wisely gives me great pleasure, because she merits it; but my loss of her gives me great pain, because I know not where to find her equal.—And as her departure will be immediately after the ball, she is desirous of taking leave of ye.—And as Miss Wisely has been diligent in all things for your benefit and improvement, I hope that all dissensions and animosities on your part will subside; and love, unanimity, and friendship, flow from every one present, to a lady so truly amiable and meritorious.

Here the Ladies salute Miss Wisely, one after the other.

Gov. Where is Miss Fullgold, Miss Fiere, Miss Captious, Miss Maline, and Miss Depit?

Miss Witty. Oh, dear Ma'am, I saw them en passant; and I assure you they looked as pleased as a disappointed courtier, or an unrevenge Spaniard.

Gov. I hope nothing is the matter with them; they are not ill?

Miss Witty. Oh, dear Ma'am, very ill indeed. The good fortune of Miss Wisely has given them such a dose, that they cannot digest; and I fear, if they continue long in that state, they'll burst, or become insane.

Miss Wisely. Pray, my dear Miss Friendly, oblige me in seeking them; for although I have suffered

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suffered so many insults and indignities from them, yet I shall be very sorry if I do not leave them in friendship. [*Miss Friendly going, the Ladies enter.*

Miss Friendly. Oh, here they come!

Miss Wisely. Ladies, I am very glad to have an opportunity to see you, before I leave the school.

Miss Fiere. And we, to have an opportunity to confess the many impertinences and insults offered to Miss Wisely, and to ask forgiveness for the same.

Miss Wisely. Oh, my dear Miss Fiere, I considered them at the time, though very much offended, to be only the prejudices of a bad early education.

Miss Fiere. Oh, Miss Wisely, your goodness and clemency has eradicated all my high flown notions and haughty airs; and for the future, I will use my utmost endeavours to equal the virtues, and follow the example of dear Miss Wisely.

Miss Depit. We should have been here sooner, but indeed we knew not how to see you, who we have so often insulted and calumniated; but I hope Miss Wisely's goodness of heart will excuse all that's past, and I will strive, by my future conduct, to imitate a lady, to whom I am so much indebted as I am to Miss Wisely.

Miss Fullgold. My dear injured Miss Wisely; let me, among the rest, claim a share of your pardon. And I assure you I will, with the strictest attention from this time, pursue those precepts that I have so often received from you; being now fully convinced, that riches and fortune, without education, is like religion without morality;

morality; and the more we endeavour to make ourselves esteemed by them, the more we sink into general contempt.

Miss Wisely. I was well convinced, on many occasions, that your heart was good; but your mind hurt by the vanity of riches.

Miss Maline. May Miss Maline, among the rest, implore forgiveness? She, who has been more instrumental in causing trouble and uneasiness to Miss Wisely, than any other; and therefore requires the greatest share of pardon. But as I am now convinced of my error, so I will shew a repentance by an entire change in my manners and conduct, and will form an unalterable resolution to imitate Miss Wisely in all things.

Miss Wisely. Although I have experienced many uneasinesses on your account, Miss Maline, yet I assure you they will, from this time, be all obliterated from my memory.

Miss Captious. I cannot talk so well as Miss Fullgold, Miss Maline, and others; but I confess, if Miss Wisely will pardon me, I will endeavour, with them, to work a reformation in my conduct.

Miss Simple. You'll forgive me too, won't you, my dear Miss Wisely?

Miss Wisely. Ladies, I most heartily and sincerely forgive all the insults, opprobriums, impertinences, and insolences that I have received; and am superlatively happy to find, that time and reason have convinced you of your errors; and beg you'll not attribute your future reformation to me, but to your Governess, from whom I have imbibed all those sentiments and precepts,
that

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that I have at various times, and when opportunity offered, delivered to you.—In doing that, I have followed her noble example, and performed only my duty.

All. Generous Miss Wisely!

Miss Wisely. And now, Ma'am, 'tis to you I turn my respect. In the first place, accept my warmest thanks for the many favours received. Secondly, for the great care and maternal tenderness you have at all times shewn to me; and thirdly, for the good education that I have received, which I esteem the most valuable and important of all earthly advantages. And in order to recompense so many obligations, let me entreat you to finish the remaining part of life with me, at a villa my papa is about to purchase in Buckinghamshire. By so doing I may in part fulfil my former promise, that if ever fortune should be propitious, I would be grateful.

Gov. My dear Miss Wisely, I beg you'll excuse me for the present accepting your kind and filial offer; but if necessity should ever press me, I will then remind you of your promise.

Miss Wisely. Well, Ma'am, if you will not accept my first offer, I must insist on your acquiescence with my second.—For as fortune is capricious, and the rich to day may be poor to-morrow, I will immediately purchase for you an annuity of one hundred pounds per annum, in the best fund in England.—So that whether by decay of years, or business, you may be necessitated, that will be sufficient to place you beyond the reach of exigency.

Gov. Grateful, generous Miss Wisely! How shall I requite your kindness and benevolence?

Miss

78 THE GOVERNESS; OR, THE

Miss Wisely. By spending the vacation with me, that I may still continue to improve by your conversation and experience.

Gov. Oh, my dear Miss Wisely, if children resembled you, the profession of a Governess would be indeed enviable.

Enter Betty.

Ma'am, Mr. Harmony begged me to tell you, that the music is ready.

Gov. And now, ladies, let us proceed to open the ball, and let mirth and good humour appear in every countenance, and let the evening be terminated to the praise of Virtue and Honor of Miss Wisely.

Gov. May scholars all like Wisely be inclin'd,
Miss Wisely. May scholars all such Governesses find.

T H E E N D.

